

CLAIMS

1. A method in a communication system for establishing a session between two or more users (A, B), the communication system comprising user end points (1,6,7), a network (3), and an intermediate end point (4), the user end points (1,6,7) being able to be connected to the network (3) by means of desired ones of access configurations, comprising the steps of
 - a) initiating (1') a session by a first user (A) with a second user (B) by sending an invitation request signal from the first user (A) over the network (3),
 - b) the intermediate point (4) receiving the request, and
 - b1) associating an invitation identity to the request,
 - b2) forwarding the request together with the invitation identity to the second user (B) over the network
 - c) the second user (B) selecting end point and/or at least one access configuration for responding to the session invitation request, and
 - c1) responding to the request with selected end point and/or access configuration by appending the invitation identity,
 - d) the intermediate point (4) associating the response with said request signal and establishing the session.
2. A method according to claim 1, characterized by providing the identity allocated in step b1) as a RANDOM number or a tag.
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized by the intermediate point (4) forwarding the invitation in accordance with user preference data defining how the invitation shall be forwarded to the second user (B).
4. A method according to claim 3, characterized by providing the user preference data to define an end point and/or access

configuration by which invitations to the second user shall be forwarded.

5. A method according to any of claims 1 - 4, characterized by informing the second user about the invitation together with the invitation identity by means of a ringing signal, a buzz, a flash, or by E-mail.

6. A method according to any of claims 1 - 5, characterized by the second user selecting the end point and/or access configuration for responding to the session invitation on the basis of available end points and access configuration.

7. A method according to claim 6 characterized by the second user selecting end point and/or access configuration for responding to the session invitation based on the kind of the invited session.

8. A method according to any of claims 1 - 7, characterized by using as end point by the second user a fixed telephone, a mobile phone, a PC, a multimedia desktop, a lap top, or an end point belonging to a LAN of the second user.

9. A method according to any of claims 1 - 7, characterized by selecting by the second user the access configuration to be cellular, Ethernet, Token Ring, FDDI, Wireless LAN, Satellite, Bluetooth etc.

10. A method according to any of claims 1 - 9, characterized by providing the session invitation in step a) as real time text, audio, audio and text, voice and streaming video, voice and real time video, voice and office tools or VR gaming.

11. A method according to any of claims 1 - 10, characterized by adjusting timers in session establishment protocols to allow

for the time required for the possible change of end point and/or access configuration.

12. A method according to any of claims 1 - 11, characterized by informing the first user about a possible change of end point and/or access configuration to allow for the time required for the change.

13. A communication system comprising user end points (1,6,7), a network (3), and an intermediate end point (4), the user end points (1,6,7) being able to be connected to the network (3) by means of desired ones of available link-layer technologies, characterized by

a) means for inviting (1') a session by a first user (A) with a second user (B) by sending an invitation request from the first user (A) over the network (3),

b) means at the intermediate point (4) for receiving the request, associating an invitation identity to the request and forwarding the request together with the invitation identity to the second user (B) over the network

c) means for allowing the second user (B) to select end point and/or access configuration for responding to the session invitation request, and responding to the request with selected end point and/or access configuration by appending the invitation identity,

d) means at the intermediate point (4) associating the response with said request signal and establishing the session.

14. A system according to claim 13, characterized by the allocated identity being a RANDOM number or a tag.

15. A system according to claim 13 or 14, characterized by means at the intermediate point (4) for forwarding the invitation in accordance with user preference data defining how the invitation shall be forwarded to the second user (B).

16. A system according to claim 13, characterized by the user preference data defining an end point and/or access configuration by which invitations to the second user shall be forwarded.

17. A system according to any of claims 13 - 16, characterized by means for informing the second user about the invitation together with the invitation identity in the form of a ringing signal, a buzz, a flash, or by E-mail.

18. A system according to any of claims 13 - 17, characterized by means for allowing the second user to select end point and/or access configuration for responding to the session invitation in the form of available end points and access configuration.

19. A system according to claim 18 characterized by means for allowing the second user to select end point and/or access configuration for responding to the session invitation based on the kind of the invited session.

20. A system according to any of claims 13 - 19, characterized in that the end point of the second user is a fixed telephone, a mobile phone, a PC, a multimedia desktop, a lap top, or an end point belonging to a LAN of the second user.

21. A system according to any of claims 13 - 19, characterized in that the access configuration used by the second user is cellular, Ethernet, Token Ring, FDDI, Wireless LAN, Satellite, Bluetooth etc.

22. A system according to any of claims 13 - 21, characterized in that the session invitation is in the form of real time text, audio, audio and text, voice and streaming video, voice

and real time video, voice and office tools or VR gaming.

23. A system according to any of claims 13 - 22, characterized by means for adjusting timers in session establishment protocols to allow for the time required for the possible change of end point and/or access configuration.

24. A method according to any of claims 13 - 23, characterized by means for informing the first user about a possible change of end point and/or access configuration to allow for the time required for the change.

25. A method in a communication system for enabling establishment of a session between two or more users (A, B), the communication system comprising user end points (1,6,7), a network (3), and an intermediate end point (4), the user end points (1,6,7) being able to access the network (3) by means of desired ones of available link-layer technologies, said establishment comprising the steps of

a) initiating (1') a session by a first user (A) to a second user (B) by means of sending an invitation request identity from the first user (A) via the network (3) to the second user (B),

b) the intermediate point (4) receiving the request, and

b1) associating an invitation identity to the request (3'),

b2) forwarding (4') the request together with the invitation identity to the second user (B) over the network (3),

characterized by

I) enabling the second user (B)

c) to select between more than one terminals for response,

d) to select access configuration for session,

II) enabling the second user (B) to respond (7',8') to the

request with selected terminal and access configuration,

26. A method according to claim 25, characterized by also enabling the second user in step I) to append a received invitation identity to selected terminal, to be also included with the response in step II).

27. A method according to claim 25 or 26, characterized by enabling the second user (B), in case of receiving an invitation request, to select between the steps of

A) keeping terminal and access configuration for session,

B) keeping terminal and changing access configuration for session,

C) changing terminal and keeping access configuration for session,

D) changing terminal and access configuration for session.

28. A method according to claim 27 characterized by enabling the second user (B) in case of receiving an invitation request if any of steps C) or D) prevail, to transfer session information to new terminal.